

§ 1726.204

will determine the bid that is in the borrower's best interest.

(i) *Award of the contract.* Upon completion of the bid evaluations, the contracting committee will promptly report all findings and recommendations to the borrower's board of directors. The board will either:

(1) Resolve to award the contract to the selected bidder; or

(2) Reject all bids.

(j) *Certifications by the contracting committee.* The chairperson of the contracting committee shall certify as follows: "The procedures for multiparty negotiation as described in 7 CFR 1726.203 were followed in awarding this contract." The certification executed by the chairperson of the contracting committee shall be submitted to RUS in writing where required by subpart A of this part.

§ 1726.204 Multiparty unit price quotations.

The borrower or its engineer must contact a sufficient number of suppliers or contractors to assure competition and so that at least three bids will be received. On the basis of written unit price quotations, the borrower will select the supplier or contractor based on the lowest evaluated cost.

§ 1726.205 Multiparty lump sum quotations.

The borrower or its engineer must contact a sufficient number of suppliers or contractors to assure competition and so that at least three bids will be received. On the basis of written lump sum quotations, the borrower will select the supplier or contractor based on the lowest evaluated cost.

§§ 1726.206–1726.249 [Reserved]

Subpart H—Modifications to RUS Standard Contract Forms

§ 1726.250 General.

RUS provides standard forms of contract for the procurement of materials, equipment, and construction and for contract amendments and various related forms for use by RUS borrowers. See §1726.304 for a listing of these forms and how to obtain them. The standard forms of contract shall be

7 CFR Ch. XVII (1–1–14 Edition)

used by the borrowers in accordance with the provisions of this part. RUS will give prior approval to certain modifications to these forms without changing the applicable requirements for RUS approval. Such approved modifications are set forth in this subpart. These are the only modifications given prior RUS approval.

[69 FR 7109, Feb. 13, 2004]

§ 1726.251 Prior approved contract modification related to price escalation on transmission equipment, generation equipment, and generation construction contracts.

(a) *General.* Where the borrower encounters reluctance among manufacturers, suppliers, and contractors to bid a firm price on transmission equipment or generation equipment, materials or construction, modifications may be made in the RUS standard form of contracts. These modifications, if applicable, may include, as an alternative to the standard form, provisions for adjusting a base price either upward or downward as determined by changes in specified indexes between the time of the bid and the time the work is performed or materials are procured by the contractor for such work. A large number of labor and materials indexes are published monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The borrower (acting through its engineer, if applicable) will select the indexes for the particular item to be used in the price adjustment clause. Suppliers' corporate indexes may not be used. Labor and materials indexes are reported in the BLS's monthly publications entitled "Employment and Earnings" and "Producer Prices and Price Indexes." These publications may be ordered through the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, or any of the BLS regional offices.

(b) *Material and equipment contracts.* The approved provisions needed to reflect the modifications to provide for price escalation in the material or equipment contract forms for generation facilities are as follows:

(1) Insert new paragraphs in the Notice and Instructions to Bidders as follows:

Rural Utilities Service, USDA

§ 1726.252

“Proposals are invited on the basis of firm prices (or prices with a stated maximum percentage escalation) or on the basis of nonfirm prices to be adjusted as provided for below or on both bases. The owner may award the contract on either basis.

Nonfirm prices. The prices are subject to adjustment upward or downward based on change in the Bureau of Labor Statistics labor and material indexes.

A proportion of ____ percent [the borrower will enter the appropriate percentage amount] of the contract price shall be deemed to represent labor cost and shall be adjusted based on changes in the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Average Hourly Earnings Rate ____ [the borrower will enter the appropriate BLS index] from the month in which the bids are opened to the month in which the labor is incorporated in the equipment or materials. The adjustment for labor costs shall be obtained by applying the percentage of increase or decrease in such index, calculated to the nearest one-tenth of one percent, to the percentage of the contract prices deemed to represent labor costs. A portion of ____ percent [the borrower will enter the appropriate percentage amount] of the contract price shall be deemed to represent material costs and shall be adjusted based on changes in the Bureau of Labor Statistics, material index ____ [the borrower will enter the appropriate BLS index] for the period and in a manner similar to the labor cost adjustment.”

(2) Insert the following in the contract documents under the “Proposal” section:

“Firm Price \$ _____
Nonfirm Price \$ _____ ”

(3) For equipment that uses a large quantity of insulating oil, the borrower may insert the following in the contract documents under the “Proposal” section:

“The price for insulating oil shall be adjusted upward or downward based on the change in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Refined Petroleum Rate (057) from the month in which the bids are opened to the month in which the oil is purchased by the equipment supplier. Contracts shall be evaluated based on an estimated cost of ____ cents per gallon [the borrower will enter the appropriate cost] for oil. Such adjustment, if any, shall not change the contract amount for purpose of applying any other adjustments to the contract prices.”

(c) *Construction contracts.* The approved provisions needed to reflect the modifications to provide for price escalation in the construction contract

forms for generation facilities are as follows:

(1) Insert new paragraphs in the “Notice and Instructions” to Bidders as follows:

“Proposals are invited on the basis of firm prices (or prices with a stated maximum percentage escalation) or on the basis of nonfirm prices to be adjusted as provided for below or on both bases. The owner may award the contract on either basis.

Nonfirm Prices—The prices are subject to adjustment upward or downward based on changes in the Bureau of Labor Statistics labor and material indexes.

A proportion of ____ percent [the borrower will enter the appropriate percentage amount] of the contract price shall be deemed to represent shop labor costs and shall be adjusted based on changes in the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Average Hourly Earnings Rate ____ [the borrower will enter the appropriate BLS index] from the month in which bids are opened to the month in which the work is accomplished. The adjustment for shop labor costs shall be obtained by applying the percentage increase or decrease in such index, to the percentage of each partial payment deemed to represent shop labor costs. A portion of ____ percent [the borrower will enter the appropriate percentage amount] of the contract prices shall be deemed to represent material costs and shall be adjusted based on changes in the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Producer Price Index, ____ [the borrower will enter the appropriate BLS index] for the period and in a manner similar to the shop labor costs adjustment. A portion of ____ percent [the borrower will enter the appropriate percentage amount] of the contract price shall be deemed to represent field labor costs and shall be adjusted based on changes in the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Average Hourly Earnings Rate ____ [the borrower will enter the appropriate BLS index], for the period and in a manner similar to the shop labor costs adjustment.”

(2) Insert the following in the contract documents under the “Proposal” section:

“Firm Price \$ _____
Nonfirm Price \$ _____ ”

§ 1726.252 Prior approved contract modification related to liability for special and consequential damages.

This section applies only to transmission equipment purchases and generation contracts. Where the borrower anticipates difficulty in obtaining responsive bids on RUS standard contract forms due to a lack of limitation